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Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 CU-04 MCT-01
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DRAFTED BY NEA/EGY:KEHONAN:SEB
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----------281022Z 080184 /20
R 280141Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

UNCLAS STATE 019509

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY SENATOR PERCY ON EGYPTIAN
DISTURBANCES

1. FOLLOWING STATEMENT BY SENATOR CHARLES PERCY, WHICH APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD OF MONDAY, JANUARY 24, MAY BE OF INTEREST TO YOU. BEGIN TEXT:
EGYPTIAN DOMESTIC DISTURBANCES.
MR PERCY. MR. PRESIDENT, FROM FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SOURCES, AND OTHER SOURCES AVAILABLE TO ME, I HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE RIOTS IN EGYPT, BEGUN BY STUDENTS, WERE QUICKLY EXPLOITED AND EXPANDED BY WELL-PREPARED URBAN LEFTISTS, THEN RIGHTISTS, ATTEMPTING TO EMBARRASS THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT SADAT. IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THESE ARE EXTREMIST ELEMENTS WHO ARE HOSTILE TO PRESIDENT SADAT'S EFFORTS TO SEEK PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

THE ORIGIN OF THE AGITATION, OF COURSE, WAS IN THE DECISION TO RAISE THE PRICES OF CERTAIN FOOD ITEMS AND OTHER PRODUCTS. GASOLINE, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS RAISED 31 , AND BOTTLED
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COOKING GAS 46 . UNDER PRESSURE FROM INTERNATIONAL MONETARY INSTITUTIONS AND CERTAIN NATIONS TO END THE HEAVY SUBSIDI,ATION OF FOOD PRICES FOR LOWER INCOME PEOPLE, PRESIDENT SADAT WAS OBLIGED TO TAKE THIS ACTION. SOME HAVE

OBSERVED IN HINDSIGHT THAT HE SHOULD HAVE RAISED PRICES MORE GRADUALLY, BUT HE CHOSE TO MOVE BOLDLY.

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CERTAINLY THIS ACTION WOULD HAVE COME MUCH SOONER HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE BENEFICIAL AND ESSENTIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE THAT EGYPT HAS BEEN RECEIVING FROM THE UNITED STATES, IRAN, ARAB COUNTRIES, JAPAN AND THE OECD.EGYPT HAS MANY FRIENDS IN THE WORLD. IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE A HIGH PRIORITY WITH THEM TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT, BOTH FOR THE WELFARE OF THE EGYPTIAN PEOPLE AND IN SUPPORT OF PRESIDENT SADAT'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE STABILITY IN THE REGION.

THIS WILL PROBABLY NOT BE THE LAST TIME THAT EXTREMIST ELEMENTS OF LEFT AND RIGHT SEEK TO MAKE POLITICAL HAY AT THE EXPENSE OF REASONABLE LEADERS OF THE AREA. I WOULD HOPE THAT RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE IN ALL THE COUNTRIES OF THE MIDDLE EAST WOULD GIVE SUPPORT TO THOSE LEADERS SUCH AS PRESIDENT SADAT, WHOSE HIGHEST PRIORITIES ARE TO IMPROVE THE LOT OF THEIR PEOPLE THROUGH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BY CONSTRUCTIVE MOVES TO ACHIEVE REGIONAL PEACE AND STABILITY. END TEXT.

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 28-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
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Subject: STATEMENT BY SENATOR PERCY ON EGYPTIAN DISTURBANCES
TAGS: PFOR, EG, (PERCY, CHARLES H)
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